



State Senator

February 22, 2005

VALDE GARCIA

Serving the 22nd District

Shiawassee-Livingston-Southern Ingham counties

Legislative Update

BREAKING NEWS FROM SENATOR GARCIA'S OFFICE
A Legislative Bulletin for Residents of the 22nd District

Garcia's

BILL OF THE WEEK!

SB 146: Mail order pharmaceuticals

Senator Garcia has cosponsored legislation that would eliminate certain restrictions in Michigan law that prohibits pharmacists from selling prescription drugs by mail.

Numerous companies in the state have offered mail-order options for their employees when reordering prescription drugs. In addition to those companies, the state's Medicaid Program now offers the same opportunities, however, the contracts the state has for its refill purchases are with out-of-state businesses. Currently, the Health Code does not permit local pharmacists to competitively bid on the Medicaid refills. SB 146 would amend the Code and allow them to participate in these negotiations.

Numerous bills were introduced this week!

Should you wish to learn more about the proposed legislation, please visit www.michiganlegislature.org and enter the bill number where indicated. The web-site will provide you with the bill's language as introduced and an analysis describing how the bill will affect area industry, the economy and consumers.

Senator Garcia is eager to learn how you feel about proposed legislation. He welcomes your responses via e-mail at senvgarcia@senate.michigan.gov.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD - - A preview of next week's committee hearings:

House & Senate Appropriations Committee, Joint Capital Outlay

Thursday, February 24 at 9 a.m. Senate Appropriations Room, 3rd Floor Capitol Building in Lansing
Use and finance statements from the University of Michigan, FY 05 Budget Recommendation regarding Michigan natural Resources Trust Fund Land Acquisition and Development Projects.

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform

Wednesday, February 23 at 3 p.m. in rooms 402/403 of the Capital Building in Lansing
SB 34, SB 52

HMO Consumer Guides Available

The Office of Financial and Insurance Services released the fifth edition of the HMO Consumer Guide. The guide is designed to help HMO subscribers learn about their providers' services including complaints and statistics. To receive a copy of the guide, please visit www.ncqa.org